



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

August 22, 2000

Dear Federally Permitted Seafood Dealer:

Since 1994, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has required seafood dealers issued certain federal seafood dealers' permits to report fish and shellfish purchases. The purpose of this letter is to restate the reporting requirements for the various permit holders and to inform the industry that NMFS will require your strict adherence to those requirements. While this letter addresses issues concerning the trip level (weighout) data submissions, quota monitoring, and other requirements, including surf clam/ocean quahog reporting as well as annual reports, continue to be in effect.

Beginning October 1, 2000, NMFS will require that all reporting procedures be followed, including that reports be submitted to the Agency rather than be collected by Port Agents. This allows several months for industry members to work with their local Port Agents before these requirements are strictly enforced and provides dealers sufficient time to make any adjustments or raise any questions regarding the requirements. It is, however, the dealer's responsibility to ensure that reports are received by the Agency by the required due date.

Reports must be postmarked or received by NMFS within sixteen (16) days of the week ending date. Port agents will no longer be collecting these reports. Reports may be mailed, faxed, Federal Expressed, or hand delivered to the Port Agent. A reporting week runs from Sunday to Saturday.

Any dealer issued a summer flounder; scup, black sea bass, Atlantic sea scallop, Northeast multispecies, monkfish, squid, Atlantic mackerel, butterfish, spiny dogfish, or, effective August 25, 2000, Atlantic bluefish permit, must provide the following for each fishing trip from which purchases are made:

- < **Dealer name and mailing address**
- < **Dealer permit number**
- < **Name and permit number or name and hull number of vessels from which fish are received**
- < **Date of purchase**

- < **Pounds by species (and market categories if applicable) of all fish or shellfish purchased**
 - < **Value by species (by market categories if applicable)**
 - < **Port landed**
 - < **Reports must be signed by the dealer or other authorized individual**
 - < **If no purchases are made in any given month, a report so stating must be submitted within sixteen (16) days of the end of the reporting month**
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- < **You must report all species purchased from vessels whether the vessel is federally permitted or not**

Port Agents will review the reports submitted by dealers to ensure that all reporting requirements have been met. If any report is incomplete, inaccurate, or illegible, it will be returned to the dealer for correction. Dealers must return the completed reports to the Port Agent within the original sixteen (16) days in order to meet the submission requirement. When reports are submitted correctly, the forms will be stamped with a receipt date. Dealers that submit delinquent reports may be issued a warning. Recurring late reporting dealers may be referred to the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement.

Our management decisions reflect the quality of the data that are submitted; better data results in better management. We require your full cooperation and need your assistance in these efforts. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call your local Port Agent's office.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator